



LONE STAR NORTHWEST, INC.

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March 6, 1997

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Mr. John Drabek
Environmental Engineer
Department of Ecology
Northwest Regional Office
3190 160th Avenue, S.E.
Bellevue, WA 98008-5452

DEPT. OF ECOLOGY

RE: Lone Star Northwest, Permit WAG-50-3191



Dear Mr. Drabek:

I am writing to inform you of two events associated with the water management system at the Lone Star Northwest 5975 E. Marginal Way, Seattle concrete batching facility. This facility operates under general permit number WAG-50-3191.

On Saturday, February 15, 1997, a early shift operator started work at 6:00 a.m. At approximately 6:15 a.m., he noticed that an approximately 2,000 gallon concrete sump that collects stormwater and process water was almost empty. He inspected the sump and noticed that there was a hole in the back concrete wall of the sump approximately 16" from the bottom of the sump floor. The back concrete sump wall is 28". The operator immediately patched the hole with fast setting concrete to ensure that the sump was contained through the weekend. After interviewing individuals who work with the sump, we learned that the hole was not there by nightfall on Friday evening. We suspect that the hole occurred when the night shift operator cleaned the settled solids out of the pond with a front end loader on Friday night. We estimate that based upon the dimensions of the pond and the location of the hole between 500 and 800 gallons of water escaped from the sump.

On Monday, February 17, Lone Star poured a new 12" concrete wall with rebar. In addition, a steel plate was place in front of the new wall to protect the concrete wall from contact with the bucket of the front end loader. The other water sump was inspected on Monday to confirm the integrity of the walls. The walls appeared sound. A steel plate was also put into the sump to further protect the wall from contact with the loader bucket. The plant superintendent has also prepared a preventative maintenance inspection checklist for the sumps and is requiring monthly inspection.

The second issue Lone Star would like to bring to the Department of Ecology's attention is associated with the permitted water discharge. On March 3, 1997 Lone Star prepared a specialty concrete mix with an admixture containing dipropylene glycol blend. A MSDS of the admixture

is attached. There were technical problems on the job which resulted in concrete with the admixture being returned to our plant and put into our water recycling system. The returned concrete contained 24 gallons of the admixture and was combined with approximately 130,000 gallons of water. We estimate that the water contained .018% of the admixture. On March 5, 1997, 40,000 gallons of treated water was discharged. As soon as it was discovered that the water contained a different admixture, Lone Star has not discharged to the river. The water is being reused to batch concrete. We also received special authorization to discharge the remaining water to Metro. While the admixture company has notified us that there should not be a problem with this material, we wanted to make you aware of the discharge. The plant superintendent has prepared and distributed a memorandum stating that the responsible individuals must notify the superintendent of any concrete mix that involves specialty admixtures so that we may identify the appropriate way to manage water associated with the specialty mix.

Please contact me if you have any questions about these issues.

Sincerely,


Shawn Lilley
Environmental Manager

cc: Mike Patricelli, Operations Manager
Darrell Herman, Plant Superintendent